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INFO RUEHDS/AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA 0353
RUEHDR/AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM 0091
RUEHKH/AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM 1372

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SIPDIS

DEPARTMENT FOR NEA/ELA, AF/SPG, AF/E, ADDIS ABABA FOR
BAUMAN, OES/ENV FOR SALZBERG

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SUBJECT: EGYPTIAN WATER MINISTER ON THE NILE BASIN INITIATIVE REF: CAIRO 1506 Classified By: Ambassador Margaret Scobey for reasons 1.4 (b) and 1.(C) Key Points: -- Egypt's Water Ministry officials plan to engage with the NBI countries to solidify their alliances and seek a compromise c 2.(C) Comment: In the next five months, in the run up to the next NileCOM meeting, we expect Egypt to proactively engage with upstream countries 3.(U) The Nile Basin Initiative (NBI) was launched in February 1999 to create a shared vision, establish policy guidelines for cooperative and 4.(C) Egyptian Minister of Water Resources and Irrigation Mohamed Nasr El Din Allam told Poloff on September 17 he thought a compromise on the 5.(C) Minister Allam said he was reaching out to other NBI countries and he hoped that a late September NBI meeting in Uganda, visits by Egypti 6.(C) Allam expressed skepticism about the World Bank's ability to handle the NBI. He said that the World Bank's Head of Global Water Resources